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REVIEWS

NUSVENSK ORDBOK av Olof Östergren, Stockholm, 1915—. Wahlström och Widstrand.

This work, which was announced in *Proceedings*, Vol. I, p. 295, has now begun to appear, two numbers of 64 pages each having been issued during the last two months. There will be between 20 and 25 numbers of this size (price for each, kr. 1). The publication of the dictionary will take three years, but with *A—Baksteg* now available, the work is already useful. As there has been no Swedish-Swedish dictionary published since Dalin (1850-1853) and Sundén (1885-1892)—if I may omit mention of the large *Svenska Akademiens ordbok*, of which *A—Blifva* and *C—Dirigera* have appeared in the course of 23 years, and which will not be completed for many a decade to come—there was clearly urgent need of a new one.

Aside from the fact that this is the first Swedish dictionary with the new orthography (that of 1906), the following might be mentioned as special features of *Nusvensk ordbok*. Of prime importance is the attention given to stylistic differences wherever occasion offers. The standpoint of the author, who himself has specialized in this field, is that of Cederschiöld—*skriftspråk*, (*sam*)-*talsspråk*; attention is also given to archaic, poetic, local language, etc. For example, under *annan* we read (abbreviations here written out in full): "Samtalsspråk, ofta något vardaglig, ibland skönlitterär är formen *ann*, som särskilt i poesi ofta skrivs med utelämnningstecken. I skrift uppträder den mest substantiviskt." This is but one of many stylistic comments under this word. Concerning *afton*: "I vissa trakter liktydigt med *kväll*, men vanligare är, att 'kväll' utmärker senare delen av aftonen. Landsdelsord är *afton* = *eftermiddag*. Afton har ofta mindre karaktär av samtalsstil än 'kväll.'" Under *aftonvard*, further: "Mindre vanligt i södra och västra Sverige. (Jämför merafton, landsdelsord.)" Regarding *adjö*: "(samtalsspråk vanligen *ajö*). Ofta upprepat; vardagligt även *ajöss*. . . . *Adjö med dig!* eller mer vardagligt och landsdelsord *Adjö på dej!* . . . Vardagligt även *Adjö på den!* t. e. om man kastar bort något eller om något eller någon plötsligt försvinner." All the information of any kind that Sundén gives under this word is: "interjektion. Far väl!" Dalin says: "interjektion. Far väl! Substantiv, neutrum, 4. Afsked. Taga adjö." Östergren, moreover, includes under the alphabetical order colloquial words such as *ann*, *afse*, *ajö*, *attan* (used in oaths).

Synonyms are given extensively under most of the words, not only in the form of single words, but also in the form of phrases and clauses. For example, under *apropå*: "1) lagom, lägligt, lämpligt, i rätta ögonblicket, (väl) till pass; 2) tillfälligtvis, av en händelse eller slump; oväntat, plötsligt; 3) eftersom saken är på tal, eftersom vi äro inne på det kapitlet, från ett till annat, det var sant, hör nu, det faller mig in; på tal om." It will readily be seen how valuable such a group of synonyms as that just quoted will be. In his book *Stilistisk språkvetenskap* (Stockholm, 1908) Östergren has called attention (p. 64) to the need of a synonym-dictionary for Swedish, the use of which, as he points out, would be especially effective in keeping the language free from unnecessary foreign words, particularly such as are the result of careless translating.

Foreign words are given to a greater extent than in the other dictionaries. A remark in the preface as to the contents of the dictionary is of interest to us: "Det finländska och det svensk-amerikanska ordförrådet finner här icke plats." The fact that the author felt the need of mentioning here the form of Swedish spoken in America shows how very broad his view of the subject of Swedish lexicography is! (It will be remembered that also Professor Noreen in his *Vårt språk*, Vol. I, p. 97, speaks of American Swedish as a possible future third form of Swedish *riksspråk*, Finnish Swedish being recognized as such.) While specifically Finnish-Swedish words are naturally omitted, Östergren does devote attention to Finnish-Swedish peculiarities as occasion offers under the words discussed, for example under *allt*, I, 3.

The inflection, I have in mind here especially that of compounds and derivatives, in the case of which information is often desirable, is indicated more clearly and extensively than is usual; e. g., in the case of words ending in *-ing* (as *acklimatisering*, *acceptering*) we are specifically told ("med plural") if a plural form occurs.

Pronunciation and stress-position are indicated wherever necessary; the accent (acute and grave) is frequently indicated.

There is much more complete and more definite information as to when invertible compound verbs have the closely attached and when the loosely attached form of verb-composition. It might be mentioned here that the more important suffixes are also treated, in their alphabetical order; e. g., *-are*, to which 15 lines are devoted.

Finally, the dictionary is modern and up-to-date, being to a very large extent the result of new investigations and collections of material. A glance at any page of the book will reveal a refreshing richness of new and live examples and quotations to illustrate the use of the words. "Det är *det nutida svenska språkbruket*, ordboken skall söka återge," we are told in the publishers' announcement, hence the name—*Nusvensk ordbok*. Under *aviat*, if I may illustrate, we read: "Även 'aviatiker' eller 'aviatör.' Alla redan mindre vanliga än flygare."

In size the new dictionary will be about equal to Dalin, but considerably larger than Sundén. Typography and paper are attractive.

It is conceivable that the information contained will be somewhat less extensive and detailed after the new dictionary ceases to run parallel to *Svenska Akademiens ordbok* mentioned above. However, we are told in the publishers' announcement: "Överhuvud innehåller denna ordbok mer på alla områden än någon föregående."

The far-reaching importance of such a dictionary to the entire Swedish nation—and to the Swedes of Finland and America—can hardly be overestimated. The effect that the dictionary is bound to have on the use of the Swedish language for many years to come—not to mention the advance in Swedish lexicography that the book represents—will repay the author for the years of labor spent in preparing it.

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